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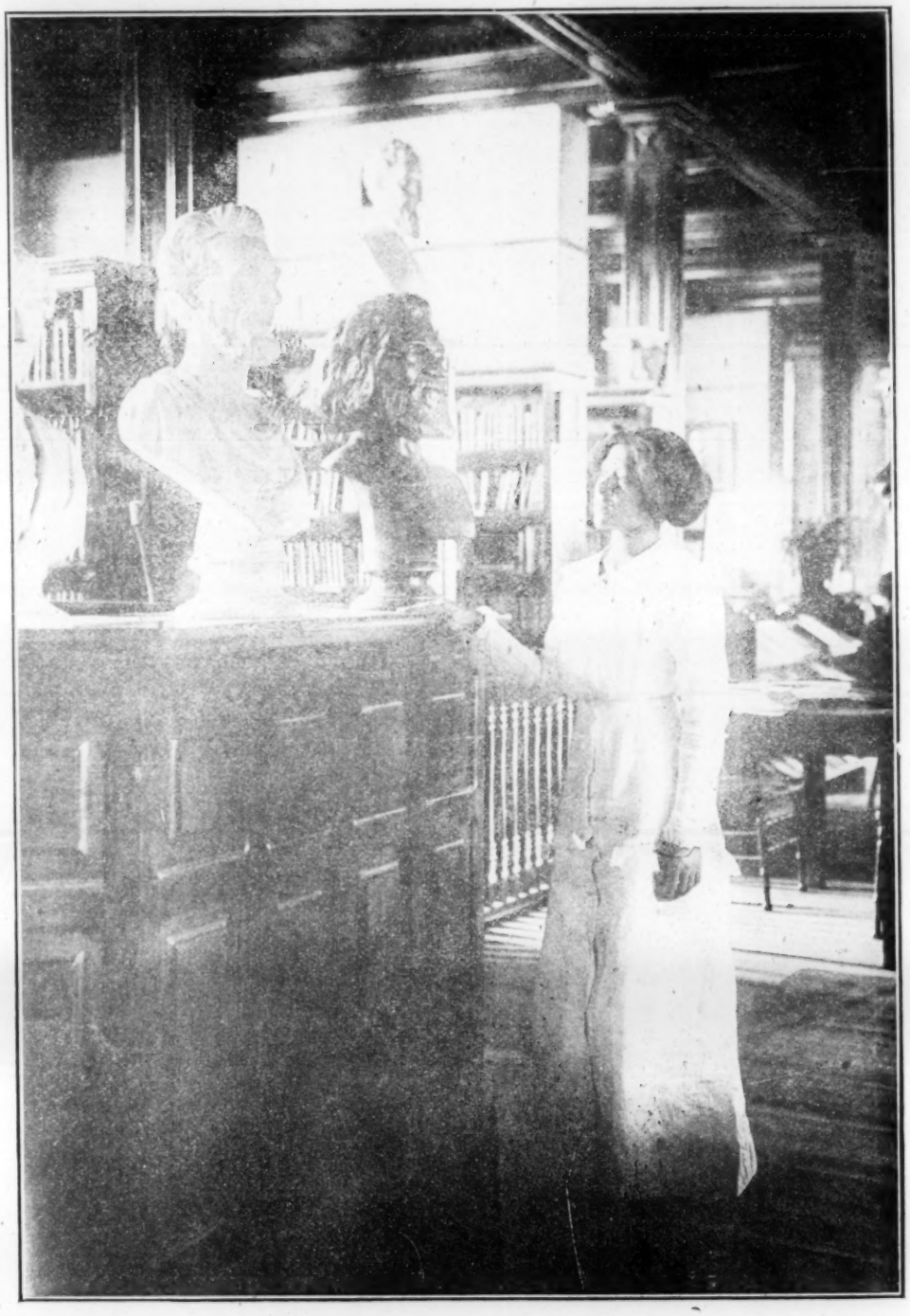
The Negro Farmer

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., June 5, 1915
Volume 2 Number 10



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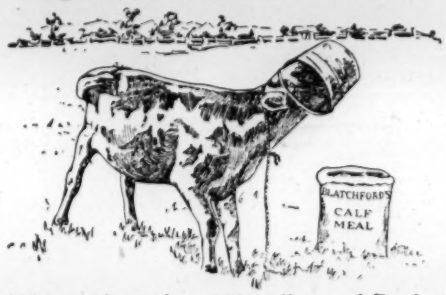

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THE BREAKING PLOW

The following verses, entitled "The Breaking-Plow," by Nixon Waterman, are found in the March number of the National Magazine:

I am the plow that turns the sod
That has lain for a thousand years;
Where the prairie's wind-tossed flowers nod
And the wolf her wild cub rears,
I come, and in my wake, like rain,
Is scattered the golden seed;
I change the leagues of lonely plain
To fruitful gardens and fields of grain
For men and their hungry breed.

I greet the earth in its rosy morn,
I am first to stir the soil,
I bring the glory of wheat and corn
For the crowning of those who toil;
I am civilization's seal and sign,
Yea, I am the mighty pen
That writes the sod with a pledge divine,
A promise to pay with bread and wine
For the sweat of honest men.

I am the end of things that were,
And the birth of things to be;
My coming makes the earth to stir
With a new and strange decree.
After its slumbers deep and long,
I waken the drowsy sod,
And sow my furrows with lifts of song
To glad the heart of the mighty throng
Slow feeling the way to God.

A thousand summers the prairies rose
Has gladdened the hermit bee;
A thousand winters the drifting snows
Have whitened the grassy sea.
Before me curls the wavering smoke
Of the Indians' smouldering fire;
Behind me rise—was it God who spoke —
At the toil-enchanted hammer's stroke,
The town and the glittering spire.

I give the soil to the one who does,
For the joy of him and his;
I rouse the slumbering world that was
To the diligent world that is.
Oh, seer, with vision that looks away
A thousand years from now,
The marvelous nation your eyes survey
Was born of the purpose that here, today,
Is guiding the breaking-plow.

MOTH BALLS A WAR LUXURY

(From the Philadelphia Record)

The war has affected various household and commercial necessities in the past nine months, but who for an instant thought that the common mothball would become a luxury? Such is the case, however, and the housewife is just beginning to realize that there is not only a dearth in the supply, but that they have increased almost four times in price. And right in the middle of the house-cleaning period and the packing away of winter duds and garments she is learning it to her dismay. To the pawnbroker and storage house proprietor this is also unwelcome news.—*Atlanta Constitution.*

PLANTING PEANUTS

The large-podded peanuts, such as the Virginia Bunch and Virginia Runner, should be shelled for planting, while the small-podded Spanish peanut is usually planted in the shell. The large-podded varieties have thick shells and the peas do not fill the pods, so that germination is retarded. The Spanish peanut has thin shells and the pods are usually well filled. When planting in pods it is a good plan to soak the peanuts for a few hours to hasten germination. After soaking, the seed should not be allowed to become dry, as the vitality is seriously injured by drying. Shelled seed should never be soaked.

The peanut should not be planted until the soil has become quite warm, and as a rule, a little later than corn. The Spanish variety may be planted later than the Virginia type, as it requires less time to complete its growth.

In most sections of the cotton belt the Spanish and similar varieties of peanuts may be planted after oats or other crops which come off early in the summer; that is, from the middle of June to the last of July. When growing the Spanish variety for hog-feeding purposes it is a good plan to make three or four plantings, so as to have the plants come to maturity at different times. The first planting should be made as early as possible and other plantings at intervals of three or four weeks until the first of July in the upper South, and up to the last of July in the lower South.

The best distance to plant peanuts varies according to the soil and variety. The Virginia Runner variety on good soil should be planted 12 to 15 inches apart in rows at least 36 inches apart. Virginia Bunch peanuts are planted in rows 30 to 36 inches apart and 9 to 12 inches apart in the row. The Spanish and Valencia varieties are planted in rows 28 to 36 inches apart and 6 to 9 inches in the row. When growing the Spanish variety for feeding purposes it is advisable to plant the seed 6 inches apart in rows 30 inches apart.

The quantity of seed required to plant an acre depends upon the closeness of the planting. As a rule it requires 1 1-2 to 2 pecks of shelled Virginia and 1 1-2 pecks of shelled Spanish peanuts, or 5 to 7 pecks in pods, to plant an acre. On light, sandy soils the seed should be covered 1 1-2 to 2 inches and 1 inch to 1 1-4 inches on heavy soils.

A large part of the crop is planted with 1-horse peanut planters. Some of these machines are designed for planting the Spanish and similar varieties in the shell. Some peanut growers still plant by hand, opening the row with a single-shovel plow and dropping the nuts at the desired distance. The row is then covered by means of a small cultivator with a notched board fastened across the back of the implement.

The Cultivation of Peanuts

The cultivation of the peanut should begin soon after planting and continue until the vines occupy the ground. If the surface of the soil gets hard before the plants break through, it is a good plan to run a weeder over the field to break the crust. As soon as the rows can be followed regular cultivation should begin. A 2-horse riding cultivator is employed to a large extent in the old peanut-growing regions, although 1-horse cultivators are used by many farmers. A cultivator will give better results than a sweep or plow. The surface should be stirred as soon as possible after a rain in order to prevent the baking of the soil.

After the peanuts begin to "peg" or form pods, they should not be disturbed or given further cultivation. For the last cultivation it is a common practice to employ a cultivator that will roll the soil up under the branches, to provide loose soil for the "pegs" to penetrate.

THE TRAVELER'S SERVANTS

A rich young man went traveling, and, coming to a large mansion, was received with open arms. The master of the house did all he could to make the youth welcome, and summoned the servants to attend him.

"Pray do not call the servants to wait upon me," exclaimed the youth, "for wherever I travel I always take with me two servants of my own. They are twins, they cost little, they are always in my presence, they never weary me, they watch beside me at night, and they never fail."

"Dear me!" replied the host. "I wish I could obtain servants like those."

"You can," said the youth, "for they have other brothers only waiting to be summoned. Their names are Contentment and Self-help. Perhaps you know them."—Home and Farm.

WINNERS FROM THE SOIL

Colored Heroes of the Farm

A Student Who Wins in Contest by Discussing Means and Methods of Winning from the Soil

This week we are presenting, not a man who has won from the soil, but the prize oration of a student who discussed diversified farming as a means of winning from Mother Earth. The Negro Farmer is not the organ of the doings and activities of the Tuskegee Institute; but it brings down here an oration delivered in that school in the Trinity Church (Boston) Oratorical Contest, because the article deserves to be given great publicity. It is not only the oration which won the first prize, but it is one of the best discussions of diversified farming for the South that we have read anywhere. The oration follows:

DIVERSIFIED FARMING THE HOPE OF THE SOUTH

By Charles Harvey Bryant, Natchitoches, Louisiana

The Southern farmer has little need to be seriously affected by this European war. He has everything right about him that is essential to his progress. He has the land; he has the labor; he has the climate; he has the natural surroundings; he has Agricultural schools and colleges and Government Experiment stations; he can raise all of his food supplies, namely, corn, wheat, sugar, rice, pork, live stock and poultry. If he raises more than he needs for home consumption, there is a ready demand in the markets of this and other countries for these products. With all of these wonderful resources why is the South affected by this great war? It is because she has been slow to realize the value and necessity of diversification. The South has too long confined herself to the production of cotton; and, unless there is a speedy change, one day in the near future, this practice will prove to be an eating cancer gnawing at the very heart of the South. But this does not say that the production of cotton should be altogether discarded; for cotton has been, and always will be a staple product of the South; but it means that if the Southern farmer is to go forward, and not stand still, if he is to keep abreast of the progress of the world, and reach the highest reward from his wonderful resources, he must reach that point without needless delay, where he can cease to depend upon a single crop for his support by adopting a system of diversified farming. Without disputing any of the good points on the production of cotton, such as the profits secured at times, the possibilities of establishing a reputation for this particular product, the thorough knowledge obtained of it and its peculiarities, or the small equipment of machinery required for it; it is only necessary to point out some of the evil results of that system in order to convince most people that diversification of crops is the hope of the South. One of the evil results of the continual cultivation of cotton is the infection of the soil with spores of fungus diseases; it also results in the rapid depletion of soil fertility. Not only is the soil being reduced to a minimum, but a gradual rotting out of the humus originally present, which is always a result of the clean culture necessary for the production of the plant. And these are not the only evils that accompany this system, or any other one system of farming. In unfavorable years, such as years of frost, of drought, of much rain, of insects' attack, or of very low prices, such as confronts the Southern farmer at present; you who were depending upon one crop have been brought to the realization of diversification. In the Central States corn was grown for many years, until low prices and low yield brought about impoverishment among the farmers and compelled them to diversify. In the North and Northwest, wheat was the only crop grown; but during several successive unfavorable periods many who depended upon it alone were compelled to go out of business.

Now let us examine some of the experiments of diversification and see if it pays to diversify.

In 1906 the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station began some diversification work with the tenants on the Rosalia plantation. Each tenant was given two acres of land upon which he planted corn, cabbage and potatoes. Because of the excessive rainfall in the early spring the corn crop was very poor and therefore used for the stock upon the farm. From May 6 until June 26 there was no rain; and because of this the cabbage crop was a complete failure. But the potato crop was a success. One tenant, Mr. A. Palmer, grew 271 bushels upon one acre; these he sold at an average price of 75 cents per bushel. The returns from this one acre of land were $203.25. Similar results were obtained by all the farmers who took part in this experiment. When it is considered that none of these tenants had ever been instructed in this method of farming, and their chances of growing a winter crop upon the same soil, the possibilities open to them, as they become more familiar with this system of farming, can be seen.

The Southern farmer has an unequaled opportunity for dairying. Farmers at Hammond, Louisiana, once a cotton-growing center, are now shipping 700 gallons of milk, daily, to New Orleans. At Marshall, Texas, Mr. E. H. Hill has operated a successful dairy farm for three years. During this time he has built up a herd of about 75 pure-bred, high-grade Jerseys. The returns from which are over $500 per month. The gross receipts from each cow in a herd of forty high-grade Jerseys at Lafayette, Louisiana, for the past year range from $180 to $222. In the matter of beef production, the Louisiana Experiment Station has demonstrated that the very best beef can be produced right here in the South for the Chicago market. The Mississippi Experiment Station has produced two-year-old high-grade beeves at a cost not exceeding $12 per head. Without doubt, dairying is a vital type of di-

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versified farming. Not only does it pay within itself, but it distributes the income of the farmer evenly throughout the year; and, at the same time builds up the fertility of the soil more rapidly than any other type of farming.

In the South conditions are favorable for hog raising. The South uses more pork in proportion to the number of its inhabitants than any other section of the country; and yet the bulk of this meat comes from the Middle West. The chief requirements for successful hog raising are pure water, a good pasture with plenty of shade and a soil sufficiently fertile to grow food at small expense. There are few sections in the South where such conditions are not found. The Southern farmer has the advantage of his brother farmer in the Middle West, in that he has at his command a greater variety of meat-producing plants and a season of continual pasture. Alfalfa, bermuda grass and white clover furnish a summer pasture. Vetch, burr clover and winter cereal furnish a winter pasture. In central Alabama seven acres of alfalfa furnish grazing for 125 head of hogs from March 1st. until November; and at the same time produce 6 tons of the very best hay. With such crops as sorghum, cow peas, turnips and rape, the question of feed is easily solved.

An example of diversified farming is found in the hills of Lincoln Parish, Louisiana. One tenant in this parish, Mr. S. M. Morris, has 125 acres of land in cultivation. Every year he produces high-grade mules, horses, cows, hogs, grain and vegetables for the market. For the past year it is estimated that his profit exceeded his expenses by $6,250, an average of $50 per acre. If the South will fortify herself against unfavorable years, such as 1914 and 1915, by diversification of crops as Mr. S. M. Morris has done in the Lincoln Hill Parish, of Louisiana, what need has she to be affected by the failure of one of her products? She can raise all of her food supplies; and, if she raises more than she needs for local consumption, there is a ready demand in the markets of this and other countries for them.

The climatic conditions are such that it is possible to have the ground occupied by some growing crop the entire year, thus making it possible to greatly hasten the soil rotating process by the use of some winter-covered crops. These will not only furnish pasture for the farm animals during the winter months, but will, at the same time, take up and hold all available plant food in the soil, much of which now is wasting and leaches away where the ground is left exposed to the washing of heavy winter rains.

Farmer, farmer, we have at our door the land; we have at our door the climate; we have at our door the labor; we have at our door the natural surroundings; we have at our door the necessary instructions, when are we going to learn to use these means? Will it be to-day or to-morrow? Are we going to wait until these means shall have been completely exhausted and our arms bound with the chain of economic fetters when we learn to use these means which Providence has placed at our door? Then, and not until then can we of the South be a free and independent people.

HOME-MADE SILOS

When the method of canning green corn for stock was brought forth, there was no other course open to the person desiring to try this way of preserving feed than to construct his own silo. Many schemes were tried and some answered the purpose well. As in most things, it was soon found that an organized company whose purpose was to manufacture silos or provide material for them, could furnish a better silo. There are of course, exceptions to all rules. Here and there will be found instances where it is cheaper for the farmer to construct his own silo, but under most conditions the manufacturer can provide a better and more satisfactory building. The cost of ready-made silos will, as a rule be more, but the completeness, durability, and satisfaction they give will quite equal the extra cost.

Well established dairy sections have passed the time for cheap constructions and temporary buildings lacking in beauty. We have come to an era when we should provide for permanency and buildings that beautify our farmsteads. Makeshift buildings do not satisfy. On the other hand, because it is possible to construct a silo with our own hands does not necessarily make it cheap. It is quite possible that more could be saved by devoting our energy to some other kind of work and hiring a crew whose business it is to make silos, or by purchasing material already prepared for putting together.

Before steps are taken to build a home made silo by inexperienced hands and from material of the farm, all these things should be considered. Chances are a better silo can be obtained by purchasing a silo or material for constructing one than to rely entirely upon ourselves to provide everything for building a silo.—*Hoard's Dairyman.*

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THE NEGRO FARMER

Published Every Other Week, in The Negro Farmer Building, Greenwood, by THE NEGRO FARMER PUBLISHING CO.

ISAAC FISHER....Editor and Business Mgr.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1915

MEMBER NATIONAL NEGRO PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Editor's Page

THE "FIRST AND SECOND CALLS" FOR SILENCE

For the dining-cars of well-equipped passenger trains, as soon as meals are ready, a waiter goes through the whole length of the train saying as he goes: "First Call for Breakfast," dinner or supper, as the case may be. He returns after a while, and gives the "second call," and still later, he comes back and with great emphasis, gives the "last call," which if not heeded, will leave the passengers without food until the next meal. In like manner it often becomes necessary to give calls or warnings to a race.

The Thrilling Story of Negro Progress

We colored people have just been celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of our freedom from slavery. Everywhere thoughtful members of the race have been telling our people and the world the thrilling story of the progress we have made. Writers, orators, statisticians are all joining in the chorus and the whole of America, at least, is learning that the fifty-year-ago slave is not "marking time," but is actually becoming one of the substantial citizens of the world.

It is natural that we should be proud. We have not had a great deal of assistance; and we came out of slavery with very crude and, sometimes, foolish views of life and conduct. We have had to unlearn a great many things before we could get down to business; but we are gradually getting everything in shape for work, and are doing pretty well in many things—certainly we have a right to rejoice.

The Danger Point

But there is danger that we may overdo the matter. In the first place, it will be very easy to go from the simple telling of the story of our advancement to the place where we will begin to boast; and that will be bad for us all. Nobody has much use for a boaster; and if one will read history, he will find that the boastful nations have all been humbled in one way or another; and we have but to look about us to see that every time an individual begins to strut and boast of his merits, some one else begins taking his measure with a view of "taking him down." That's the way of the world. Everywhere people expect one to "make good;" but it does not permit him to brag about it when he does.

Again, there's no use to mince words, the Negro, as a dear old colored preacher once said, is standing in a very "merculious" position. Ofttimes his very progress awakens alarm and invites opposition. We have enough of that without begging for more. There is before me as I write a paper which is asking for legislation to check the Negro's advance because the last census reports show that the race has made such wonderful progress in a certain direction. Of course the Negro has friends in every part of the country, particularly in the South, who want to see him do his best, however silent some of these friends may be; but the race also has its foes who are watching its progress with no friendly eye—we just must be wise and not do too much parading of our advancement. After all has been said, a white man or a black man is very foolish to display a well-filled pocket-book in the presence of a crowd. That's clear, I know. So with a race. It must not show its pocket-book too often.

The First and Second Calls

The race needs encouragement. Those who cannot see far must be told that we are still marching on, so that they may not lose heart. But the word is being pretty generally passed around that the Negro is not asleep—that he is actually stretching forth his hands and doing a part of the world's work.

I am making the first and second calls for silence now. Let us have our expositions which show progress, and be through with that part; let us celebrate our fiftieth anniversary of freedom and be done with it; let us write our magazine articles—and they should be written—and then for a while let the statistics of progress have rest; let us make a few more speeches in which we set the hearts of the race on fire as we contrast old slave days with now—and then—talk about something else. **This is the first and second call for silence about our progress.**

The news has gone forth and the "grapevine telegraph," now as in slavery, may be depended upon to pass the word along to all of the race that our cause is marching on.

One More Call

It's almost time for "the last call for silence"—silence about our progress. By the end of 1915 we should be quiet. We have a record to make for the census period 1910-1920. Five years have already passed. To the work! "Get Busy!" "Get on the Job!" Stop talking; because the first and second calls for silence about Negro progress, for the present, have been made and it's time for the last call.

—ISAAC FISHER

TO KEEP CABBAGE FROM BURSTING

When heads of cabbage become well formed and about done growing, if the weather is damp, the heads are likely to burst and much of a very fine crop may be damaged greatly or lost within a few days.

To prevent this, the heads appearing most likely to burst, should be taken in the hands carefully and gently pulled a little, or twisted just a little to one side and the other simply to break off the smaller roots in the damp earth, but not to disturb the main or longer roots.

This will stop the bursting, and will not injure the cabbage at all; doubtless before other small roots start, the crop may be disposed of, or the weather is so changed there will be less danger of the heads bursting.—J. T. T.—*Successful Farming.*

THE FARMER AND THE WAR

David Starr Jordan is one of the truly great educators of this country, and as well a man of broad, sound comprehension in all the affairs of men. In Farm and Fireside he answers the question: "Will the war in Europe be a permanent help to the corn belt farmer?" The answer he makes is well worth reading and reflecting upon. It is as follows:

"The Farmer of America gains nothing through the losses of the farmers of Europe. We are all in the same boat, and whatever harms the prosperity of one part of the world, injures us all. For some of his products the American farmer may get a little more. For other articles, as cotton, in wartime, he may have no market at all. Whoever buys of him must have the money to buy with. Food is cheap today in England because so many go without their usual food, buying only the cheapest article. In London, a month ago, the finest fruit was sold for next to nothing. No one would eat Sussex peaches or Devon grapes while the continent was burning. So it is everywhere.

"In war there is no demand for luxuries, no care for comfort, no continuity of industry, no demand to buy, and among millions of people nothing to buy with. The interest of one nation is the interest of all so far as farmers and workmen are concerned.

"The farmer has no greater enemy than war. He has no greater need than peace. And peace is the mission and the duty of a republic. A republic is a form of government fitted for minding its own business. Its business is mainly justice, sanitation education, and peace. With fair play, good schools, and security, the farmer can do all the rest for himself.

"The war of today has its primal motive to keep the farmer down. It is, at bottom, the fight of pride and privilege against the common man. It is the last stand of imperialism against democracy. It is the last supreme effort of those who believe that some men and some nations are good enough to rule other men and nations against their will. This is not the whole story of the war, but it is what the war has come to passions of men, mostly in these two—arrogance and greed. No nation can make money out of any war, and no nation that begins a war can tell how it will end. But in every war there are some few men, contractors, gun-makers, iron-plate makers, who make a good deal of money. And so long as the Krupps, the Vickers, the Armstrongs, and the Schneiders of Europe, the armorplate patriots" of Germany, England, and France, have their way, there will alway be war, and the farmers of the world will pay for it. The farmer is the foundation of prosperity, and it is bad for the whole world when it goes ill with the farmer.

"'Fall to each, whate'er befall,
The farmer he must pay for all.'"

—*Hoard's Dairyman*

ALWAYS A LITTLE MORE

We can always stand a little more,
Always do a little more,
Always try a little more,
Than we really think.
Effort out of weariness,
Striving out of care,
We can always do a little more
Than we really think our share.

We can always shift a little more
Always shift a ittle more,
Always toil a little more
Than we thought we could.
Struggle, when the tide seems strong;
Honest, when the world goes wrong,
We can always do a little more
For the common good.

We can always wait a little more,
Always ache a little more,
Always trust a little more
Than we thought was right.
Purpose of the golden will
Steering as to manhood still,
We can always do a little more
To lift the world to light.

—*Baltimore Sun*

MELON AND CUCUMBER BEETLES

Melon and cucumbers growers find one of their worst pests to be the striped yellow beetles which attack the young vines. The destructive work begins just as soon as the plants appear above the ground. The beetles eat the vines, while the larvae which hatch from eggs laid near the vines, destroy the roots by burrowing into them and tunnelling through the stems. The attacks may kill the vines or damage them so that they will not yield. These pests feed upon cucumber, melon, and squash vines.

In planting, it is a good plan to put in an abundance of seed. Then a few plants usually will survive the first attacks of the beetles. If the beetles do not appear, it is a simple matter to thin each hill down to the correct number of good, strong plants.

Repellants have been used with more or less satisfaction. Sometimes a repellant such as tobacco dust or ashes, seems to keep the beetles away, and sometimes it seems to have no effect at all. Air slaked lime, gypsum saturated with turpentine, road dust, and other preparations of a similar nature are used with uncertain success.

Screening the hills is practical when there is a limited number of hills. The screens should be placed over the hills shortly after planting, and be left on until the plants have attained considerable size. Repeated applications of a poison spray of paris green or arsenate of lead will do some good.

At the close of the season all dead vines should be burned. This will help get control of the pest the following year. The bugs prefer squash vines, and this crop is often planted as a catch-trap. The beetles will congregate on the squash vines in preference to cucumbers or melons. Then they may be killed by burning or otherwise. Successive plantings of squashes in abundance near the edges of the field will do much to keep the beetles away from the cucumbers or melons. If this practice is followed, the Cucumber vines should be dusted or sprayed with a repellant, while the squash vines should be left untreated.—*Wallace's Farmer.*

WHERE "PIGS IS PIGS."

"Hogs to the right of them,
Hogs to the left of them,
More hogs in front of them,
All the world wondered;
Hogs black, white and red,
All were alfalfa fed,
All to be marketed,
Ten times six hundred."

That is the way they sing it down in the Plainview, Texas, country, where for several years past there has been such a remarkable impetus given to the pork-raising industry that the people of this section have been accused of going "hog wild." Considering the two prime factors in successful hog-raising—health and economy of production—the Plainview country has the advantage of a matchless climate and 3,000 feet of altitude to guarantee immunity from disease of any kind; and the finest alfalfa meadows in the world for pasturage, with kafir and maize for fattening, to insure economy of production. It is hard for the average corn-belt farmer to be convinced that Indian corn is not the best or the only thing with which to fatten a hog; and yet these plains-bred and kafir-fed hogs from the Plainview district go on to Fort Worth market in competition with corn-fed hogs and carry off the highest prices. The Plainview hog raisers usually put pigs on the market at about six months of age, when they average about 250 pounds. The bulk of this weight is furnished by grazing alfalfa—the "wonder weed" that grows to such perfection in the shallow-water belt of West Texas. Also the Plainview hogs are remarkably prolific. The average litter of pigs is eight or nine and the range is from two litters in three years to two litters a year.—*The Swine World.*

A pure-bred hog will convert a pound of food into more meat weight than will a grade. This has been demonstrated time and again. This is just the reason why you should get in the pure-bred business as quick as possible. If you can't afford to buy pure-bred ,sows, buy a pure-bred boar, anyway, and you will note the improvement in his first litters. The cost of keeping a boar is about twenty dollars a year, and before keeping a boar you want to be sure you have one that is worth keeping.—*The Swine World.*

FARMERS' DICTIONARY

The "Big Words" and Events Explained

Why Italy Entered the War

Wallace's Farmer sums up so well the reasons why Italy entered the European War that we are bringing them down here:

Italy Enters the War

At the time of the outbreak of the war in Europe, Italy was a member of the triple alliance, consisting of Italy, Germany and Austria. Great Britain, France and Russia formed the triple entente. These alliances were formed to preserve the balance of power in Europe and the members of each were bound to stand with the other members in case any member should be attacked. The articles of alliance, however, did not bind the members to fight for one another in a war of aggression. Consequenty, when Germany and Austria took the initiative in the present war, Italy did not consider herself bound by alliance agreement. Ever since hostilities began, Italy has been subjected to great pressure to join one side or the other. With her great coast line in waters dominated by the fleets of Great Britain and France, her natural alliance would be with these countries. Germany, however, exerted every possible effort to retain her friendship, and, failing that, to persuade her to remain neutral. Public sentiment in Italy has seemed to be very strong for the allies, and against Austria. After a time, demands were made upon the latter country for the cession of certain territory, the Italian-speaking provinces adjoining Italy on the northeast and a wide strip of coast line around the northern end of the Adriatic. Germany exerted her influence with Austria to grant the Italian demands but unsuccessfully, and as a result Italy has finally thrown herself into the conflict. At this distance, it would appear that the motives which have actuated Italy are not very commendable. Apparently, she is taking advantage of the situation to add to her own territory. And it seems probable that some of the Balkan states will before a great while join the conflict for the same reason. If the allies win, Austria will be cut up, in part at least, and each of these nations will want her share.

Italy has a standing army of over 300,000 men, and on a war footing will probably be able to throw at least a million men into the field. She has taken plenty of time to get ready, and her army is well organized adn well supplied with ammunition and equipment. Her first move will doubtless be an effort to penetrate the Austria-Hungarry border, and if successful, sweep through western Austria. He navy consists of four dreadnaughts, eight battleships, nine armored cruisers, thirteen protected cruisers, ninety-six torpedo boats, thirty-five destroyers, and twenty-five submarines. She has an air fleet of twelve dirigibles, two hundred and ten areoplanes, and forty-five hydro-areoplanes.

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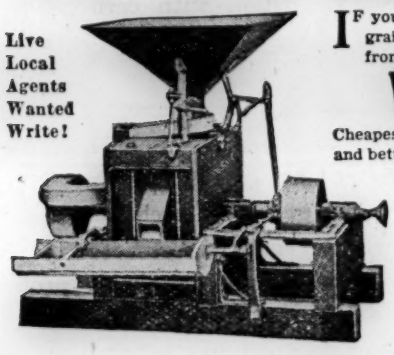

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PREPARE LAND WELL FOR COWPEAS

Without any question, the cowpea is one of the most important crops in the South, and should be given more attention than has been given in the past. It is important not only for hay, but for the seed, as the seed is a most excellent feed for people and animals. Not only is the crop important for the hay and the seed, but because it takes from the air that important plant food, nitrogen, and stores it in the soil. We should remember that there are several million dollars' worth of nitrogen over each acre of land, and the only way we can get this nitrogen in the soil is by growing leguminous crops like cowpeas, clovers, etc.

Then another reason why the cowpea is so very important in any system of crop rotation is the fact that it can follow wheat, oats, or other small grain and be harvested in plenty of time to plant any other fall crop or be seeded down with a cover crop. A good crop can be made with very little work, yet the cowpea will pay a handsome profit for thorough preparation of the seed bed. The wheat and oats are usually harvested in the South during a very busy season and for this reason it has become customary with a large per cent of our farmers to just sow the peas broadcast by breaking the land broadcast. If at all possible, it certainly is advisable to break the land with a two-horse plow and thoroughly cut with a disk harrow. Also in the majority of instances it would pay to fertilize at time of planting with a medium quantity of acid phosphate and potash.—Southern Farming.

THE CARE OF NEW HATCHED CHICKS

By H. L. Kempster

Millions of chickens are lost each year because of improper methods of feeding. Some of this loss can be prevented by using the plan of raising chicks which has been worked out by the Poultry Department of the University of Missouri.

Chicks should not be fed until they are forty-eight hours old and then should receive nothing but fine, white grits. This stimulates the digestive organs and prepares them for food which is to follow. The next feeding should be a mixture of 3 parts finely cracked wheat, 3 parts finely cracked corn and 1 part steel cut oats, fed dry.

Some of this mixture or commercial food should be in the litter at all times so as to encourage the chicks to exercise.

Twice daily the chicks should receive rolled oats or a mixture of 3 parts bread crumbs, 3 parts corn bread and 1 part boiled egg. This mixture may be fed dry, or it may be slightly dampened with sour milk. Young chicks should always have access to clean drinking-water or if possible some skim milk or buttermilk. These should be kept in a vessel so constructed that the chicks cannot get themselves wet.

GETTING IN THE GRAIN CROPS

A different condition obtains in the South in regard to grain compared with other sections. Hay commands a high price, and hence the cereal hays offer a splendid opportunity to farmers to secure their needed farm supplies. Government authorities recommend that where the entire oat and wheat crop is to be fed on the farm in neighborhoods where threshing machines are not available, that both crops be either cut for hay or else tied into medium sized bundles to be fed in the straw.

If intended for hay, both wheat and oats should be cut when the grain varies from the milk to the very soft dough stage. At this time the stalks will be mostly green or just beginning to show signs of ripening below. After cutting they should be cured and handled exactly as any of the common grass hays. So treated the hay will be a bright green color. If cutting is delayed until the grain is in full dough stage, the hay will be dark, hard, bleached and the feeding value diminished. If grain is to be fed in the straw, then the cutting may be delayed until the stalks are yellow and the grain hard.

Under favorable weather conditions six to eight days will be sufficient for curing. When both oats and wheat are to be handled as grain crops, sufficient time for ripening is necessary. Let the grain pass into the hard dough stage. If either crop is permitted to become dead ripe, the quality is not quite so good and there is heavy loss from shattering. If no threshing machine is availible at once grain should either be stacked or stored in a barn. Grain may be threshed directly from the field, however. At grain harvest and threshing there is a splendid opportunity for co-operation, neighbors exchanging with one another for needed labor.— *Southern Farming*

PREVENTION OF MOTH DAMAGE

The various substances used to keep away moths, such as tobacco, camphor, napthalene cones or balls, tarred paper, and cedar chips, have no effect if the eggs are already present in the clothes. Entomologists in the department therefore recommend a thorough beating, shaking and brushing of all articles likely to attract moths before they are laid away for the summer. The brushing of garments is especially important in order to remove eggs which may have escaped notice. If the articles are quite free from eggs or larvae when laid away the odor from the various repellants already mentioned or from cedar chests and wardrobes will serve to keep the moths away. This odor, however, lessons with age, so that the protection it affords is greatly decreased after a few years. For this reason when furs and other valuable garments are wrapped in tarred paper or placed in sacks of tarred paper these containers should be renewed every year or two.—*Weekly News Letter, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.*

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KEEP THE SOWS BREEDING

In every part of the country where it is possible, one should keep breeding his sows often enough to insure two litters per year, thus increasing his crop and annual business, furthermore, sows that are kept busy seldom get in the habit of failing to breed. Of course, we in the north have to be a little more careful as we canot very well have pigs farrowed every month in the year, but if the climate would permit it we would certainly do so and keep from having brood sows that are boarders rather than paying their way by raising litters as often as possible, yet we do not believe in the system of breeding a sow the third day after farrowing and compelling her to nurse one litter while carrying another. Do not forget that plenty of exercise for the litters when a few days old is the only preventive for trouble known as thumps, keep them moving in some way, and all well be well.— *The Swine World.*

WHAT IS DIVERSIFICATION?

One of the specialists of the department, who has been giving attention to the diversification of crops in the South, recently defined diversification as follows:

Few people understand what "diversification" means. I had a farmer say to me not long ago, "I want to diversify, to quit cotton; what crop shall I change to?" I heard some time ago of a sugar planter in Louisiana who wanted to diversify. He quit sugar and planted 500 acres of tomatoes. Surely, that is diversification with a vengeance. Now, my friends, we have got a good thing in the South if we will only go to work and make the agriculture self-supporting. The department's plan is to foster the production of home gardens, to encourage thrift by teaching people to can fruit and vegetables for home use, as they do in every thrifty community. To have farmers grow their own corn, oats, hay, peas, beans, potatoes, and some cane or sorghum for sirup, and to produce their own meat supply from a reasonable industry in poultry, hogs, and cattle. Of course this would require some reduction of the cotton acreage unless more acres were taken up, but under this plan we would establish a live-stock industry sufficient to utilize the waste products of the farm and to make productive its waste land. On every farm there is waste land which could be made productive with live stock. This is a pure business proposition, but one which has been sadly neglected in all our southern territory.—*Weekly News Letter.*

CONSULT YOUR LANDLORD

It is very important that our colored farmers have frequent talks with the men from whom they rent land and find out just in what way the tennants can co-operate with these land-owners in diversifying their crops during this year.

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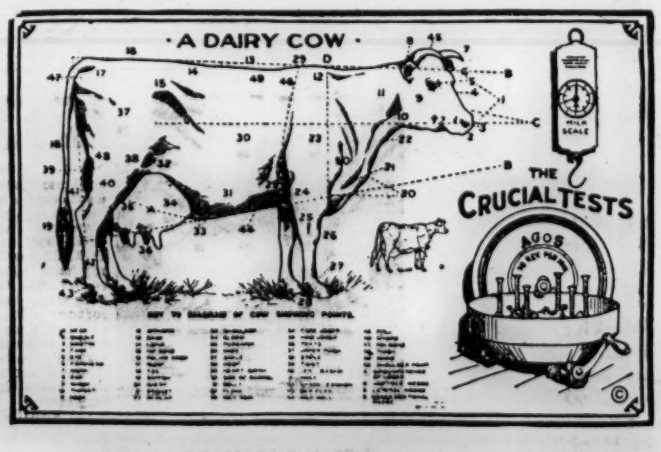

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PACKING PEACHES

Peaches should be be picked for packing only when fully developed, but firm or hard ripe. Yellow meated varieties should show some yellow color. The fruit should be picked and laid, not dropped, in the baskets or pails, and should be taken from the vessel only at packing table. All possible care should be used to avoid bruises.

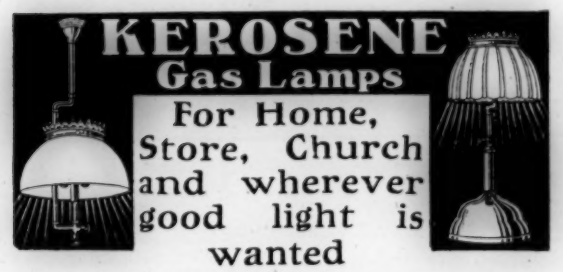
Use standard peach boxes; cleats on top only; use 4d special orange box cement nails for bottoms and sides. Drive nails one inch from corner, four nails to each piece. Use 4d cement box nails for each cleat, one in the center, and one driven two inches from the end of the cleat. The cover should hold the fruit firmly in the box, but should not bulge more than three-eighths of an inch. Use 4½-inch boxes only for Elberta peaches, running 50 to 84, both inclusive, avoiding the use of extra cleats except in extreme cases. Peaches that are too large to be laid five wide in the box should be packed two and three in 4½-inch boxes. If the peaches are roundish, as in the case of Crawfords, it will be necessary to use some 4-inch boxes with this pack.

Peaches that run less than 96 to the box or smaller should be packed three and three in 4-inch boxes.. The excellence of the pack depends upon uniform grading. The peaches in a box should not vary more than one-eighth of an inch in diameter. All peaches must be carefully wrapped in suitable paper.

Peaches that run less than 95 to the box must not be packed for shipment. Eighty-four count must be minimum for Elbertas. In packing the box should set on an incline with the lower end of the box to the packer. Both tiers should be carried forward together. The peaches should be placed in the box stem end down, those in the top tier resting in the space between those in the lower tier so that no peach will rest squarely on top of another.

Pack all peaches with the loose end of the wrapper down. No over-ripe, under-sized immature, bruised, mis-shapen, diseased, wormy or otherwise defective fruit should be packed.

The variety, numerical count and grower's name to be placed on the label end of box with rubber stamps.—*Fruit and produce market.*



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THE USE OF SPRING VEGETABLES

This is the time of year when the garden abounds with young vegetables, also the time of "spring fever" and "that tired feeling." The lavish use of fresh vegetables in the diet is the best of spring tonics. Do you realize that our bodies need a change in diet just as much as a change from heavy winter clothing? We have eaten dried beans, rice and "tinned" vegetables for many months and as summer comes, we should use all the fresh vegetables possible.

Why are fresh vegetables better than dried, or canned? Because there is a much larger per cent of water; mineral content, which keeps the bones, hair, teeth and digestive juices in condition, because of the calcium iron, sodium, and potassium salts which vegetables contain—and also because of the greater amount of bulk, a very important item. So I urge you again, better use the spring tonic in the form of vegetables than wasting dollars on "Peruna."

ELIZABETH HAYS.
Idaho Agricultural College.

POINTS ON FEEDING COTTONSEED MEAL

The United States Department of Agriculture is endeavoring to induce feeders of cattle the country over to come more to the feeding of cottonseed meal. Dr. W. F. Ward, Senior Animal Husbandry and Beef Cattle Investigations, gives the following ten items for feeders to bear in mind in connection with the use of cottonseed meal:

(1) Do not feed young calves heavily on cottonseed meal.

(2) Secure prices on both cottonseed meal and linseed meal and use the cheaper food.

(3) If cottonseed meal does not cost over $34 a ton it can probably be used to advantage in wintering the breeding herd.

(4) By feeding a ration of 2 pounds of cottonseed cake with corn siilage, or 2½ pounds of cottonseed cake with coarse roughage such as oat straw, cornstover, etc., mature cattle can be wintered very economically.

(5) One pound of cottonseed meal isusually worth as much as 2 pounds of corn for feeding cattle.

(6) In sections where much corn, stover, fodder, timothy, or other carbohydrate feeds are used, it is extremely important that some feed like cottonseed meal be used.

(7) Cottonseed meal stimulates the appetite of fattening animals and causes them to consume more feed and likewise to make greater gains.

(8) Heavy feeding of cottonseed meal should be discontinued after 100 to 120 days where dry roughage is fed and after 150 days where succulent feeds are used.

(9) Cottonseed cake can be used very profitably as a supplemental feed for fattening cattle on pasture.

(10) Five times as many farmers should be using cottonseed meal as are doing so at the present time. Are you one of them?—*Modern Farming.*

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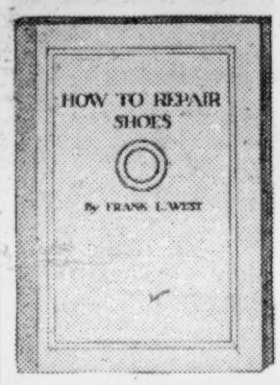

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It is always full of supplementary matter especially suitable for the class-room. Several teachers in the Tuskegee Institute use the papers regularly in their classes.

For Colored Children

Its stories of how colored men and women are succeeding are said by many teachers to be the best of their kind to be found anywhere.

For Readers of Newspapers and Magazines

The Negro Farmer is a necessity. Its "Farmers' Dictionary" explains all public questions, fully, carefully and in an interesting manner.

For White Landowners Who Employ Colored Farmers

The Negro Farmer is a splendid investment if it is put into the hands of colored tenants and laborers.